



PEDAGOGY AND LEARNING EXPERIENCE OF DIVERSE LEARNERS OF INCLUSIVE CLASSROOM

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ABSTRACT

The word Pedagogy means “*To lead the Child*”. Pedagogy is “*An Art and Science*”. In other words pedagogy refers to best way of teaching to variety of children. The task of teaching includes basics principles of teaching, approaches, methods, techniques, strategies and skills of teaching. The real teaching happens when the teacher understands minds of the learners or students. He/she will engage the students as per their levels and understandings. He plays pivotal role in adopting appropriate methods and strategies in order to teach effectively to school children. The school children comprises of diverse learning in their nature. The term diverse learners can be used for diverse learners include gifted children, street children, slow learners, tribal children, disadvantaged children, and children with special needs. It is very important to understand various learning needs of diverse children and impart free and quality education for them. There should not be any kind of discrimination with regard to their religion, region, caste, creed, color and ethnicity while imparting education and gaining learning experiences.

To impart quality education the teacher of the class should adopt various pedagogical processes. It includes selection criteria of teaching, classroom management, effective communication, use of assistive technologies, ways of teaching to children with disabilities, gifted children, slow learners and tribal children and understanding their learning needs and disabilities.

The paper discusses on the above aspects of pedagogical processes and learning experiences of the diverse learners. It will through a light with the help of current and past research findings. Appropriate suggestions and measures will also be mentioned in the paper.

KEY WORDS: Pedagogy, Learning Experiences, Diverse Learners, Children With Special Needs, Pedagogical Processes, Inclusive Classroom

Introduction

The word Pedagogy means “To Lead the Child”. Pedagogy is “An Art and Science”. In other words, pedagogy refers to best way of teaching to variety of children. The task of teaching includes basic principles of teaching, approaches, methods, techniques, strategies and skills of teaching. The real teaching happens only when the teacher understands minds of the learners. He/she will engage the students as per their levels and understandings. He plays pivotal role in adopting appropriate methods and strategies in order to teach effectively. The school children comprises of diverse learning in their nature. The term diverse learners can be used for gifted children, street children, slow learners, tribal children, disadvantaged children, and children with special needs of education and disabilities. It is very important to understand various learning needs of children. There should not be any kind of discrimination with regard to their religion, region, caste, creed and color while imparting education in an inclusive classroom.

To impart quality education the teacher of the class should adopt various pedagogical processes. It includes selection criteria of teaching, classroom management, effective communication, use of assistive technologies, ways of teaching to children with disabilities, gifted children, slow learners, tribal children and children with disabilities.

Pedagogy is nothing but practices of teaching in the implementation of children with diverse needs. These are support services and teaching strategies to impart quality education for children with diverse needs.

What is Inclusive Classroom?

Inclusive classroom refers to regular classrooms wherein general teachers impart knowledge on various subjects or a particular subject to all children who are with or without disabilities. Street and working children, gifted children, exceptional children, emotionally disturbed children, tribal children, economically backward and financially forward children and migrated children are welcomed into regular classrooms without any discrimination of their caste, creed, color, gender, region and religion. All these children are entitled for free and compulsory education up to the minimum age of 18 years under the implemented National Policy for Persons With Disabilities which was introduced in the month of February, 2016.

The general classroom consists of all facilities so that children with disability freely and fearlessly access classroom environment. The classroom of Govt. School and corporate school meet all the physical requirements as mentioned in the provisions of Persons With Disabilities Act-2005. No child is denied to access of free education in the schools. The teacher educators play crucial role in order to impart quality education in the general classroom. It is the greatest and biggest challenge for teachers to manage all variety of students in the regular class and impart teaching as per their demands and needs.

Ways of Effective Pedagogy and Practices

There are the ways to impart effective pedagogy and best practices of the diverse learners' classroom. They are:

Support Services

Teacher should provide support services to children with disabilities in different ways. They may provide academic support for their learning enhancement. Help them in giving teaching learning materials and encourage them for learning. Similarly, they can provide classroom support, physical support, psychological support and parental support.

Provide Accommodation

Migrated children are not accommodating in the schools when they demand for admission in the schools due to various the prescribed rules and fear of decreasing the reputation of the school. This facility is not available even in the corporate schools to accommodate to child when he/she come to school to access education. Those who are drop out from the schooling due to their personal, economic and family reasons they need to adopt education. Management and administration should give priority in admitting students in the school who are from disadvantaged from the community or society. Migrated children should be accommodated during the academic year at anytime with special attention towards learning achievements.

Assistive Devices

Different devices and technological tools should also be making available for all the learners in the schools. In recent years, technology started (Sewasew, et. al., 2015) to make a significant presence in classrooms and education technology becomes a necessity (Thomas, 2002). Assistive devices are referred to those equipments, items or products which are useful for special needs children for their educational learning. Some of the assistive tools (Revanthi, 2015) comprises of pencil grips, book holders, texture boards, reading stands, educational toys and games, hearing aids, speech trainers, Braille paper and styluses, tape recorders, magnifying reading glasses, Braille shorthand machine, Distance vision telescope, Hand help magnifiers, KNFB portable reader for blind students, talking dictionary, smart cane, Advanced Digital Speech Audiometer, Hearing Aid, Wireless FM Assistive Listening System, Battery Powered Joystick Operated Wheelchair, Aluminum Crutches, Prosthetic limbs, Cervical Immobilizer, Child model tricycle, Folding sticks and folding walkers, Basic Skill Wooden Puzzle, Punarnarjani, Calender of seasons, Sanyog, Gupshup, Touch Screen, Adapted Keyboard and Ball Mouse are much useful for imparting effective pedagogy in the classroom. The teacher educators should have adequate knowledge, adoption techniques and positive attitude towards these technologies while teaching in the inclusive classroom. They should help disabled children for accessing education and also for proper use of the suitable devices. So, the teacher must have knowledge and its techniques of usage in order to support

children with disabilities. They should allow students with visual disability to record the lecture delivered by the teachers through voice recorder in the general class. The recorded lecture would be helpful for the learning disabled child to revise the lecture as per his/her convenience.

Chalk and talk Method of Teaching

The value of chalk and talk declared as the more effective and useful teaching tool in students learning experience compared to power point presentation (PPT) and it was recommended for teaching. It is often argued that teacher immediacy is an effective instructional strategy that enhances students' learning as found by the researchers (Szabo and Hastings, 2000; Vashi, et al., 2012). If they continue the same method of teaching, the student teachers may be engaged in their personalized activities like use of mobile, unnecessary writings or drawings and they may sleep in the class. So, it is essential to wise teachers to change their methodology and techniques of teaching for effective implementation of inclusive education.

Transport facilities

Students who live in remote areas face problems in accessing schools. Due to lack of transport facility many students are drop out schooling. Hence, the management and administration should provide transport facility for all the learners including children with disabilities.

Role of Teacher

The teacher has to play a dynamic role in the school in order to deal with children with diversities. He should not beat students because it may cause drop out. His/her role should be crucial.

Teachers should use verbal and non-verbal communication for teaching learning disabled children. Through words, they can appreciate the works of the learners. For example: 'you did a good work', 'you are excellent' and so on. They can also use non-verbal communication like a smile, or a pat on the back of the child. Positive reinforcement is the best technique for teaching disabled children. Negative reinforcement and corporal punishment is strictly prohibited.

In many cases, children with learning disabilities (Agrawal, R. and Rao, BVLN, 2010) forget to bring the required material like pencil, scale, or an eraser to the school. Instead of scolding the child, it is better to keep an extra set of the material in the school and make it available to the child, and collecting it back when the class is over. Social skills can be taught through T.V. shows, dramas, role-play etc. To get the attention of all children, innovativeness on the part of the teacher would be very useful. The teacher may introduce some games to start the lesson or tell some small story, or may show some coloured pictures or models. Children will easily be attracted to such methods and pay greater attention to what the teacher is saying. While teaching and using the chalkboard a laser beam should be used to focus on the point. Overhead projector may be used to catch the attention of the students. The teacher should involve all the students in the class, and group activities should be given according to the abilities of the students. Such activities may not be common for all the students.

Adopt Humanistic Approach

Teacher should adopt humanistic approach in order to teach children with all diversities. Children are human beings so that he/she understands their problems and treat them sympathetically in some situations as per the conditions and circumstances of classroom.

Classroom Management

Managing a massive classroom is a big task. Every classroom contains all variety of learners. Teacher can manage the class effectively only when he/she has mastery over the subject and consider them as human beings. Sometimes students/children will be arrogant and they do not want to listen instructions given the teacher in such cases a teacher has to come down his/her level and act as per their needs and demands.

Effective communication

Language is the most important to transact curriculum and control classroom of diverse learners. It positively impact on all students. The teacher should use fluent language in the class. It is believed that good speaking and writing is a responsibility of only language teachers. Other teachers ignore this fluent speaking and writing skills because of a feeling of non-language teachers. It is very wrong and misconception. Without language skills, they may not become good teachers. The teachers focus on improving English language skills of all student teachers including non language students. They should provide special needs children for learning their language skills. Slow learners of language also be treated as par with the learning disabled children.

Concluding remarks

Thus, Pedagogy means best ways of teaching and implementing best practices and innovative techniques for teaching in the regular classrooms. Teachers play pivotal role in the classroom. In order to teach effectively the teacher should learn a lot about the content (subject) and use best modern techniques of teaching while delivering the lesson in the class. Also understand the minds of individual learners in a diverse classroom. Humanistic approaches, good command of language, humour, chalk and talk method are some of the important strategies of

teaching to diverse learners.

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